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EXAMINER

TRUONG, CAM Y T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2162

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/091,496

Applicant(s)

YUASA ET AL.

Examiner

Cam Y T Truong

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/7/2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of group I, claims 1-11 on 9/8/2004 is acknowledged. Non-elected claims 12-14 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-11 are pending in this Office Action.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 3/7/2003 is being considered by the examiner.

Abstract

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details. The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Appropriate correction is required.

Title

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: in the preamble of the claim recites the phrase "transferring apparatus" in page 24, lines 2-3; thus the phrase "transmitting apparatus" in page 24, line 8-13 should be rewritten as "transferring apparatus".

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There is "an identifier" as indicated on page 24, line 7. However, in page 24, line 15, the phrase "each said identifier" is recited. That appears to be unclear. Thus, this phrase should be written as "said identifier". Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 2-4 are dependent on claim 1 respectively. Thus, they are objected on the basis.

6. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: as indicated on claim 1, the phrase "transmitting apparatus" in page 25, line 5-6 should be rewritten as "transferring apparatus". Appropriate correction is required.

7. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: as indicated in claim 1, the phrase "each said identifier" in page 25, line 13 should be rewritten as "said identifier". Appropriate correction is required.

8. Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: as indicated in claim 1, the phrase "each said identifier" in page 25, line 17 should be rewritten as "said identifier". The word "changed" in page 25, line 17, appears to be unclear whether it is a part of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

9. Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "each said identifier" in page 26, lines 21-24 should be rewritten as "said identifier". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 8 is dependent on claim 7 respectively. Thus, it is objected on the basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

10. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

11. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C.101 because the language of the claim raises a question as to whether the claim is directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment or machine which would result in a practice application producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C 101.

As regarding to:

Claim 11 recites "a program for causing a computer to perform predetermined processing". It indicates that a program can be performed by a computer and not being processed. Thus, claim 11 is merely abstract idea without any links to a practical result in the technology arts.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

13. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Call (US 6418441).

As to claim 1, Call teaches the claimed limitations:

“an information indicating method employing an information sharing apparatus coupled with an information transferring apparatus for transferring information and an information viewing apparatus for viewing said information through a network” as displaying stored information in computer server to any user such as resellers or other after a user requests the information shows an information indicating method. The information is transferred by a computer manufacture to the computer server. A computer server is represented as an information sharing apparatus. The manufacture computer is represented as an information transferring apparatus for transferring information products to the computer server. Each user computer is represented as an information viewing apparatus (col. 5, lines 60-67; col. 6, lines 55-60; col. 9, lines 5-13);

“said information indicating method comprising the steps of: storing both an identifier for identifying said transmitting apparatus and customization information for determining an indication form of said information” as receiving and storing a URL and records in a relational database. The URL is translated to IP address that identifies the manufacture computer. Thus, in this case, the URL is used to identify the manufacture computer. The information or company information, which is contained in a registration template record 207, is used to create records in three separate tables in the relational database: a company table, a URL table and a cross-reference table. The above information shows that the company information is customized and stored company table. Thus, the company table, which is used to determine a web page or HTML page for displaying information, is presented as customization information (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 48-52; col. 5, lines 65-67; col. 6, lines 55-60; col. 9, lines 5-13; col. 10, lines 10-15);

“in such a way that said identifier and said customization information are associated with each other” as receiving and storing a URL and records in a relational database. The information or company information, which is contained in a registration template record 207, is used to created records in three separate tables in the relational database: a company table, a URL table and a

cross-reference table. Storing created records in tables 112 and 115 shows that these tables are customized. The above information shows that these tables are stored in such a way that these tables and URL are associated with each other. These tables are represented customization information (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 65-67; col. 6, lines 55-60);

“storing said received information in storage units corresponding to each said identifier” as storing URL and company information blocks of tables (fig. 2, col. 6, lines 1-15; col. 6, lines 56-58);

“receiving said information and said identifier from said information transmitting apparatus” as receiving a URL and company information from manufacture computer (col. 5, lines 65-67; col. 6, lines 1-15);

“receiving from said information viewing apparatus a request for viewing partial information included in said stored information” as the cross-reference table 215 can be scanned by the product code translator in response to a request for certain universal product codes only. This request can be a user from the user computer. The above information shows that the product translator receives a request for viewing the product codes only. The product codes are represented as partial information (col. 9, lines 38-40);

“searching for customization information corresponding to an identifier of said partial information” as the cross-reference table 215 can be scanned by the product code translator in response to a request for certain universal product codes only. This request can be a user from the user computer. The above information shows that the product translator receives a request for viewing the product codes only. The product codes are represented as partial information (col. 9, lines 38-40).

“indicating on said information viewing apparatus said partial information in an indication form determined based on said customization information retrieved as a result of said search” as it can respond to a request for information about a particular participating manufacturer and return to the

requester the information in the company table 211 as well as the specification of all of the registered universal product codes assigned to that participating manufacturer and the IP address (or URL) of the location where further information on the products designated by the registered universal product codes may be obtained. Responding the information to a request shows indicating information. The above information shows that the system has included a web page or a HTML page for responding information to a user (col. 8, lines 55-62; col. 9, lines 5-13; col. 10, lines 10-15).

As to claim 2, Call teaches the claimed limitation "wherein said identifier and said customization information are received from said information transmitting apparatus before said identifier and said customization information are stored in such a way that said identifier and said customization information are associated with each other" as after a server receives a URL and company formation before storing URL and company information in a relational database in such as a way the URL and company information are associated with each other (fig. 2A; col. 5, lines 66-67; col. 6, lines 1-5; col. 6, lines 56-60).

As to claim 4, Call teaches the claimed limitation " wherein an item order of an item constituting said partial information is indicated in such a way that said item order is sorted (changed) for each said identifier" as services can provide consumers with powerful tools for locating products having selected attributes and for sorting and comparing products based on those attributes. In this way, a consumer can more readily identify particular products, which best suit her needs, can view detailed, accurate and up-to -date promotional and specification information on each product directly from the manufacture. Since products of manufactures are stored in a database and

associated with URLs. Thus, when a customer can sort and compare products based on those attributes (col. 33, lines 5-10).

As to claim 11, Call teaches the claimed limitations:

“an input step of receiving both an identifier for identifying a provider of information to be stored in a storage apparatus and said information” as receiving and storing a URL and records in a relational database in such a way the URL and company table are associated with each other. The URL is translated to IP address that identifies the manufacture computer. Thus, in this case, the URL, which can be used to identify the manufacture computer. The information or company information, which is contained in a registration template record 207, is used to created records in three separate tables in the relational database: a company table, a URL table and a cross-reference table. The above information shows that the company information is customized and stored in another format. Thus, the company table that store company information are presented as customization information. The company information and the URL are stored in such a way that the company information is associated with the URL (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 48-52; col. 5, lines 65-67; col. 6, lines 55-60);

“a holding step of storing said identifier and customization information for specifying an indication form of said information” as storing URL and company information in rows and columns of tables. Company information is represented as customization information for determining a web page or a HTML page (fig. 2, col. 6, lines 1-10; col. 6, lines 56-58; col. 9, lines 5-13; col. 10, lines 10-15);

“in such a way that said identifier and said customization information are associated with each other” as receiving and storing a URL and records in a relational database in such a way the URL and company table are associated with each other. The URL is translated to IP address that

identifies the manufacture computer. Thus, in this case, the URL, which can be used to identify the manufacture computer. The information or company information, which is contained in a registration template record 207, is used to created records in three separate tables in the relational database: a company table, a URL table and a cross-reference table. The above information shows that the company information is customized and stored in another format. Thus, the company table that store company information are presented as customization information. The company information and the URL are stored in such a way that the company information is associated with the URL (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 48-52; col. 5, lines 65-67; col. 6, lines 55-60);

“a storing step of storing said information provided by said provider in storage units corresponding to said identifier” as storing URL and company information in rows and columns of tables (fig. 2, col. 6, lines 1-10; col. 6, lines 56-58);

“a receiving step of receiving a request for viewing partial information included in said information” as the cross-reference table 215 can be scanned by the product code translator in response to a request for certain universal product codes only. This request can be a user from the user computer. The above information shows that the product translator receives a request for viewing the product codes only. The product codes are represented as partial information (col. 9, liens 38-40);

“a searching step of searching for customization information corresponding to an identifier of said partial information” as the cross-reference table 215 can be scanned by the product code translator in response to a request for certain universal product codes only. This request can be a user from the user computer. The above information shows that the product translator searches the product code for viewing the product codes only. The product codes are represented as partial information (col. 9, liens 38-40).

“an indicating step of indicating said partial information in an indication manner corresponding to said customization information” as it can respond to a request for information about a particular participating manufacturer and return to the requester the information in the company table 211 as well as the specification of all of the registered universal product codes assigned to that participating manufacturer and the IP address (or URL) of the location where further information on the products designated by the registered universal product codes may be obtained. Responding the information to a request shows indicating information in a HTML page or web page. The above information shows that the system has included a web page for responding information to a user (col. 8, lines 55-62; col. 9, lines 5-13; col. 10, lines 10-15).

14. Claims 5, 6, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Khemlani et al (or hereinafter “Khemlani”) (US 6772146).

As to claim 5, Khemlani teaches an information indicating apparatus for indicating information based on a request (fig. 21, col. 3, lines 4-7), said apparatus comprising:

“storing means for storing information in predetermined storage units, said information being able to be indicated” as storing information in rows as predetermined storage units in source databases as shown in fig. 21. Information is displayed to a user for viewing. Thus, the information is being able to be indicated (fig. 21, col. 3, lines 4-7);

“memory means for storing each said storage unit in such a way that customization information is associated with each said storage unit” as a processor 110 is coupled to the source databases and a customization database 115. The customization database 115 stores records containing pre-selected parameters that are used to select and retrieve information from the information resources database. The above information shows that the system store

each storage unit in such as a way that customization database is associated with each storage unit (col. 3, lines 4-22);

“said customization information having its indication manner defined” as customization database includes a customization button e.g. 1008 fig. 2a, by clicking on this button, a user can access the customization functions. The above information shows that customization information or database has its indication manner defined (col. 5, lines 35-40);

“accepting means for accepting a request for indicating partial information included in said information” as when a user highlight a name and click on Go. Then the table is populated with data obtained according to the custom record associated with the watchlist selected by the user. The above information shows that the system access a request for displaying data included in the watchlist. Displaying the data is represented as indicating the data. The selected name is represented as partial information (col. 6, lines 52-55);

“indicating means for indicating said partial information in an indication manner defined by customization information corresponding to storage units constituting said partial information” as when a user highlight a name and click on Go. Then the table is populated with data obtained according to the custom record associated with the watchlist selected by the user. The above information shows that the system displays the data in an indication manner defined by customization information corresponding each name in each row constituting the data as partial information (col. 6, lines 52-55).

As to claim 6, Khemlani teaches the claimed limitation “wherein said customization information includes an indication form of said partial information” as when a user highlights a name and click on Go. Then the table is populated with data obtained according to the custom

record associated with the watchlist selected by the user. The custom record is represented as a form for the name as partial information (col. 6, lines 52-55).

As to claim 9, Khemlani teaches the claimed limitation “wherein said customization information includes a predefined indication item and a customization indication item name defined by a person who needs to indicate said partial information, in such a way that said predefined indication item and said customization indication item name are associated with each other; and said indicating means indicates said partial information expressed by use of said of customization indication item name” as Fixed Income, Economic & Other Research module (229, FIG. 2n) can be customized by clicking on Customize Fixed Income Research link (824, FIG. 7). Once clicked, a Fixed Income customization window 826 is provided to the user, as shown in FIG. 7h. Window 826 includes: a search box 828 in which ticker symbols for stocks may be entered; a company name search box 830 in which names of companies used in a search are entered. A Country Selection box 832 which lists a number of countries that can be selected; an Industrial Category Selection box 834 containing a list of various industrial categories in which the search is performed; and an Update button 836, clicking of which will provide the customization database with a Custom Record that is used to retrieve information for the module when the user logs on. The above information shows that the customization database or information includes a company name search box 830 and a name of companies used in a search are entered by a user (col. 17, lines 1-15).

As to claim 10, Khemalani teaches the claimed limitation “transmitting means for, to said person who needs to indicate said partial information; transmitting data for prompting for input of said customization indication item name for said indication item; and receiving from said person

who needs to indicate said partial information said customization indication item name entered for said indication item” as providing the customization database with a custom record to a user after receiving user’s entering an item name such as company name (col. 17, lines 5-15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Call (US 6418441) in view of Tsimelzon (US 6834306).

As to claim 3, Call discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 1, except the claimed limitation “ wherein an item name of an item included in said partial information is indicated in such a way that said item name is changed for each said identifier”. Tsimelzon teaches that a user can change the name associated with the combopage by entering a new name in area 590. The user can indicate that the contents of the compopage are to be enclosed in an HTML table in area 592. When the user clicks a Done button, the client sends the entered information to server, which stores the entered information in connection with the combopage and returns the user to the user’s startpage. The entered information or new name is stored in associated with a URL. The above information shows that the new name is entered in start page is indicated in such a way that the name is changed for a URL. Start page is represented as partial information (fig. 16c; col. 11, lines 20-30).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Tsimelzon's teaching of a user can change the name associated with the combopage by entering a new name in area 590. The user can indicate that the contents of the compopage are to be enclosed in an HTML table in area 592. When the user clicks a Done button, the client sends the entered information to server, which stores the entered information in connection with the combopage and returns the user to the user's startpage to Call's system in order to provide extreme flexibility and implicitly in making changes to a item associated with stored page and further to notify to a user changes in a web page for future processing.

17. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khemlani et al (or hereinafter "Khemlani") (US 6772146) in view of Call.

As to claim 7, Khemlani discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 5, except the claimed limitation "receiving means for, from an information transmitting apparatus which transmits said information, receiving said information and an identifier for identifying a manager of said information transmitting apparatus; wherein said storing means stores said information in said storage units corresponding to each said identifier". Call teaches receiving a company-ID that is used to identify an company and company information such as email registration date, address from a company computer and storing the company-ID and company information corresponding to each block of tables in a relational database. The blocks are represented as storage units. Company-ID is represented as an identifier (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 48-52; col. 5, lines 65-67; col. 6, lines 55-60).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Call's teaching of receiving a URL and company information from a manufacture computer and storing the URL corresponding to each block of tables in a relational

database to Khemlani's system in order to allow a user to navigates back to the network address associated with partial information and further to allow a user to know detail information about a provider of partial information.

As to claim 8, Khemlani discloses the claimed limitation subject matter in claim 7, except the claimed limitation "another receiving means for receiving a request for viewing said identifier and said partial information from an information viewing apparatus capable of viewing said partial information". Call teaches that in response to a user request for more detailed information, the sales server may return a web page containing a XML Xpointer link to detailed product information and/or to an enlarged image of the product. The above information shows that the system receives a request from a user computer for viewing a XML Xpointer link or a URL as an identifier and detailed product information as partial information (col. 23, lines 24-30).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Call's teaching of in response to a user request for more detailed information, the sales server may return a web page containing a XML Xpointer link to detailed product information and/or to an enlarged image of the product to Khemlani's system in order to allow a user to navigates back to the network address associated with partial information and further to allow a user to know detail information about a provider of partial information.

Conclusion

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Banerjee et al (US 6795830) discloses displaying a customization form to allow a user to customize all items in a database (fig. 6D). This subject matter is relevance for claims 1-11.

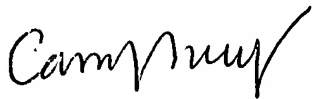
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Contact Information

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam Y T Truong whose telephone number is. (571) 272-4042. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cam-Y Truong
Art Unit 2162
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